

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MOLYBDENUM IN MAY 2000

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in May 2000 was about 8% more than that of the previous month and was 34% less than that of May 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Producer stocks of molybdenum in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 9,900 metric tons at the beginning of 2000, and 7,532 metric tons at the end of May.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production and shipments of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption, by end use, and stocks, by material, of molybdenum in the previous and current month; also included are trade data for the previous month. During the current month, the Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum

concentrate was discontinued. The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.583 per kilogram (\$2.533 per pound), and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$7.606 per kilogram (\$3.450 per pound). The USGS estimated average monthly price for molybdenum concentrate was \$3.75 per kilogram (\$1.700 per pound).

For the week ending July 21, 2000, the Platt's Metals Week average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.952 per kilogram (\$2.700 per pound), and that for ferromolybdenum was \$7.937 per kilogram (\$3.600 per pound). The USGS estimated price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.00 per kilogram (\$1.80 per pound).

TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999	2000		Year to date
	January-December	April	May	
Production	43,000	2,890 r/	3,020	14,500
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	28,800	1,300	1,450	7,140
Export	11,900	1,110 r/	1,270	4,930

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2  
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999	2000		Year to date
	January-December	April	May	
Gross production	39,800	3,290	3,630	18,100
Internal consumption 2/	20,500	1,610	1,890	9,410
Gross shipments	39,000	3,310	3,310	17,400

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3  
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
2000, April:						
Steel:						
Carbon	14,800	W	--	--	3,190	18,000
High-strength low-alloy	35,300	8,690	--	--	--	44,000
Stainless and heat-resisting	278,000	45,300	--	--	4,760	328,000
Full alloy	177,000	153,000	--	--	2,330	332,000
Tool	W	3,720	--	--	1,450	5,170
Total	505,000	211,000	--	--	11,700	727,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	2,300	30,300	--	--	763	33,300
Superalloys	96,800	W	--	(3/)	88,800	186,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	122	3,110	--	--	6,290	9,520
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	199,000	199,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	45	45
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	1,270	--	--	W
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,710	1,710
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	14,500	14,500
Other	24,700	25,900	74,800	--	14,900	140,000
Grand total	706,000	270,000	76,100	--	337,000	1,390,000
Stocks, April 30, 2000	609,000	189,000	4,840	35,900	852,000	1,690,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued  
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
2000, May:						
Steel:						
Carbon	34,300	25,300	--	--	3,190	62,800
High-strength low-alloy	37,100	9,090	--	--	--	46,200
Stainless and heat-resisting	254,000	35,400	--	--	4,760	294,000
Full alloy	151,000	161,000	--	--	2,330	314,000
Tool	W	W	--	--	1,450	1,450
Total	476,000	230,000	--	--	11,700	718,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	2,000	34,400	--	--	763	37,200
Superalloys	70,100	W	--	(3/)	68,600	139,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	W	3,640	--	--	6,210	9,850
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	193,000	193,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	30	30
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	2,250	--	--	2,250
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	2,150	2,150
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	14,900	14,900
Other	90,700	40,300	74,800	--	14,900	221,000
Grand total	716,000	309,000	77,100	--	313,000	1,410,000
Stocks, May 31, 2000	703,000	186,000	4,840	27,200	850,000	1,770,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Other" of the "Superalloys" category.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES  
(including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1999	2000		
	January-December	March	April	Year to date
Australia	41,100	9,510	--	16,100
Belgium	4,740,000	542,000	589,000	1,680,000
Brazil	66,800	3,840	3,520	10,000
Canada	1,350,000	133,000	120,000	703,000
Chile	2,420,000	21,600	--	27,800
China	1,190,000	68,800	62,000	600,000
Germany	122,000	33,900	34,000	379,000
Italy	264,000	5,620	17,300	79,400
Japan	2,320,000	271,000	320,000	958,000
Korea, Republic of	210,000	723	1,480	3,670
Mexico	129,000	--	39,400	41,000
Netherlands	8,620,000	526,000	522,000	2,590,000
Spain	25,100	--	--	11,400
Sweden	613,000	24,000	12,000	154,000
United Kingdom	5,530,000	237,000	894,000	1,750,000
Other	207,000	1,450	4,280	20,300
Total	27,900,000	1,880,000	2,620,000	9,020,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

	1999	2000		
	January-December	March	April	Year to date
Australia	1,471	--	--	1,144
Canada	561,000	20,800	79,800	207,000
China	209,000	--	--	--
Japan	49,800	--	9,600	22,000
Korea, Republic of	11,000	--	--	--
Mexico	79,700	13,900	14,800	38,300
Other	599	--	--	--
Total	913,000	34,700	104,000	268,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	January-December 1999			April 2000		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,020,000	5,090,000	\$39,600	225,000	125,000	\$954
Ore and concentrates other	2,710,000	1,480,000	7,810	346,000	201,000	1,060
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,180,000	NA	9,610	151,000	NA	814
Molybdates of ammonium	1,240,000	684,000	8,980	127,000	74,600	652
Molybdates (all others)	192,000	114,000	982	--	--	--
Molybdenum orange	2,050,000	NA	7,950	94,400	NA	377
Ferromolybdenum	7,690,000	4,830,000	44,000	674,000	419,000	2,720
Molybdenum powders	110,000	103,000	3,210	64	11,200	293
Molybdenum unwrought	145,000	137,000	2,110	19	19	23
Molybdenum waste and scrap	296,000	292,000	4,080	44,200	44,000	549
Molybdenum wire	5,530	NA	500	235	NA	24
Molybdenum other	7,850	NA	1,650	480	NA	109
Total	23,700,000	12,700,000	130,000	1,660,000	875,000	7,580

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.